

Clerk's report and recommendation

Council meeting 3rd February 2025

Agenda item: Aldbury Parish Council Domain

To consider moving to the gov.uk domain with the current hosting company, TEEC Ltd, at an annual cost of £30 plus VAT.

Background:

1. More Parish and Town Councils in England have moved to "gov.uk" domain which is only available to government departments. This means registration is strictly controlled and this can help provide assurance to the public that a council is an official tier of local government.
2. The benefits of having a "gov.uk" domain include better controls and protection against cybersecurity threats as well as consistency in the handling and storage of information. This will also enable a more efficient way of handling information requests under the Freedom of Information Act.
3. The Practitioner's Guide 2024 also encourages local councils to consider adopting a "gov.uk" domain. Section 5.2, point 10 of the Guide states: "All parish, town, and community councils are eligible to use, and are advised to use, a gov.uk domain for their websites and email communications."
4. This topic frequently arises in clerk's forums and drop-in sessions, with fellow clerks agreeing that the use of a "gov.uk" domain will likely become compulsory at some point in the future.

Quote:

The Clerk enquired with TEEC Ltd (current hosting company) about the costs of the gov.uk domain and received the following answer:

£30 + VAT is annual registration/renewal cost for a GOV.UK domain only.

Email services is part of the current hosting package, with 10 email accounts & there is no added cost for setting this up.

The cost of hosting annually will remain the same.

The GOV.UK domain renewal will be billed separately, as this is not included in any of our hosting packages.